CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

In the world of education in Indonesia, there are two categories, namely the senior high school (SHS) and the vocational high school (VHS). SHS focuses on knowledge expansion and skills improvement of students and prepares students for further higher education while VHS focuses on the development of specific skills that apply to certain specific occuption. Vocational School has different goal from Senior High School. Risangkusmo, W (2015) states the main difference between the vocational high school and the high school in general is the preparation for the students to get particular jobs soon after they graduate. Generally, SHS does not provide certain majors like vocational school and it does not prepare the students ready to work. Meanwhile, the students in vocational school should learn English based on their specific needs by the students' course.

The fact shows a contrast with the concepts of English for Specific Purpose (ESP). Hutchinson and Waters (1987:53) accentuate that what distinguishes ESP from General English is the awareness for the former towards the students' needs. The learning materials has been developed so as to be the guidance for the English teacher, in order to consider the learning needs. Based on interview, the English teacher stated that the government only provides the similar textbook with the same content every year. The teacher should find other resources to teach them.

There are four skills in language learning such as speaking, reading, writing, and listening. As one of the English language skills, reading is very important skill in learning English because without a good reading skill, one cannot obtain many kinds of information printed in the form of media such as bulletin, magazine or newspaper (Koda, 2005). In short, reading is an activity by which we can improve our general knowledge, get information, and pleasure. In the globalization era, nowdays the need of development in engineering, technicians are not only expected to have technical competences in accordance to their specialization but are also expected to have a good international communication skills, such as English language skills to support their competencies in comprehending many instructions of Engineering written in English.

Harsono (2007;5) stated that learning material is one of the very crucial elements that have to exist to conduct teaching / learning activities. Learning materials are parts of the English teaching and learning that make the vocational school students become more familiar with English along with the relevant field study. Reading materials as one of the parts in English learning materials are considered essential since they can help students to get more exposure in English as well as learn something new about their discipline.

Learning materials are the resources which a teacher uses to deliver instruction. Learning materials help a teaching and learning process (O'Neill, 2003). Learning materials are absolutely related to skills of language, including in teaching English as a foreign language. As one of the four major skills, reading is an essential skill for students. In the syllabus of grade XI for vocational school, students need to learn some genres of text, there are analytical exposition and explanation text. Kholid M. R and R. Agustina (2017) state analytical exposition is a text type of content that reported the thesis, arguments, and reiteration. The purposes are to persuade by presenting

arguments and to analyze or explain how and why. And also, Hutasuhut I.R, M. Lubis and S. Daulay (2019) state the explanatory text aims to explain how and why something in the world happens. Further, explanation text provides a valuable role in building and storing our knowledge.

To get the preliminary data, an interview was conducted with a teacher of SMKN 9 MEDAN about students' enthusiasm when they were learning English, the trascript of the interview can be seen as follow:

Interviewer : Does the school provide any English Textbook specifically for students of Software Engineering?

Interviewee : The specific texts are not provided, the content only focuses on and in general topic.

Interviewer : According to Ma'am, how were the students' enthusiasm seen when they were learning the text in the class?

Interviewee : Some of the students were active, but sometimes they were also passive, because the textbook is very monotonous, not interesting and the topic was not appropriate with their major.

Software Engineering is one of departments provided in SMKN 9 Medan. To support the preliminary data taken by the interview, on observation has also been conducted in the BAHASA INGGRIS book published by Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan Republik Indonesia 2017. It was found the materials in the book are not related to software engineering major. Ideally, the topics of the materials for learning English should be closely related to software engineering, the students need English materials containing input texts that are related to their study program. It can be seen from:

Table 1.1. Materials in the book "BAHASA INGGRIS"

Name	Topic	Pages
		45
		46
Analytical Exposition	Natural Disaster-An Exposition 1. Pre-activity (Global Warming) 2. Building blocks (Analytical exposition text) 3. Let's practice 4. Active conversation 5. Writing connection 6. Let's create/ contribute 7. Formative assessment	47 52 53 56 59 60
Explanation Text	Explain This 1. Pre-activity (Earthquake) 2. Building block (Explanation Text) 3. Let's practice 4. Active conversation 5. Writing connection 6. Let's create/ contribute 7. Formative assessment	99 100 101 107 108 109 112 113

However, the English learning materials for every department at SMKN 9 Medan are not ideal yet. The reading part does not contain relevant input texts and technical terms that are needed by the students in software engineering. Therefore, the teachers at SMKN 9 Medan created their own learning materials by adapting some

learning materials from various resources. This is just a temporary solution and they are still waiting for the learning materials intended for the vocational high school. So, from the original or the general book, the teacher should develop materials based on the learning objectives. Based on this problem, there is a need to develop learning materials that is suitable for the students there, especially in reading texts.

B. The Problem of The Study

Based on the background of the study, the research problem can be formulated as follow: "How are the English reading materials developed based on the students' needs of Software Engineering for eleventh grade students at SMKN 9 Medan?"

C. The Objective of The Study

Based on the problem that has been mentioned, the objective of the research is to develop the English reading materials based on the students of Software Engineering needs for eleventh grade students at SMKN 9 Medan.

D. The Scope of The Study

The scope of the study is to develop the English reading materials based on the students of Software Engineering needs. The researcher focuses on only developing reading learning materials for eleventh grade students of Software Engineering department at SMKN 9 Medan. The materials will be arranged based on Curriculum 2013 to maximize the results, and reading learning materials will focus on only developing analytical exposition and explanation text.

E. Significances of The Research

The findings of this study are expected to give some contributions on:

1. Theoretically

The reading learning materials are expected to provide a good reference and useful in developing the knowledge, particularly in reading resources for Software Engineering. The result of this research can be advantageous in English teaching and learning process.

2. Practically

This study will give contribute to :

a. For the teacher

The result of this research is expected to help English teachers in providing relevant reading materials in the teaching and learning process.

b. For the students

The students are expected to be more motivated in learning English and acquire more knowledge about English related to their field of study.

c. For the researchers

This research is expected to provide data, resources, and references for them about developing English reading materials